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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10237 and CMS-10137]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the Agency's function; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

1. Type of Information Collection Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title of Information Collection: Part C Medicare Advantage and 1876 Cost Plan Expansion

Application; Use: Collection of this information is mandated in Part C of the Medicare

Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) in Subpart K of 42

CRF 422 entitled "*Contracts with Medicare Advantage Organizations.*" In addition, the

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) amended titles XVII

and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the Medicare program.

In general, coverage for the prescription drug benefit is provided through prescription

drug plans (PDPs) that offer drug-only coverage or through Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations that offer integrated prescription drug and health care products (MA-PD plans). PDPs must offer a basic drug benefit. Medicare Advantage Coordinated Care Plans (MA-CCPs) either must offer a basic benefit or may offer broader coverage for no additional cost. Medicare Advantage Private Fee for Service Plans (MA-PFFS) may choose to offer enrollees a Part D benefit. Employer Group Plans may also provide Part D benefits. If any of the contracting organizations meet basic requirements, they may also offer supplemental benefits through enhanced alternative coverage for an additional premium.

Organizations wishing to provide healthcare services under MA and/or MA-PD plans must complete an application, file a bid, and receive final approval from CMS. Existing MA plans may request to expand their contracted service area by completing the Service Area Expansion (SAE) application. Applicants may offer a local MA plan in a county, a portion of a county (i.e., a partial county) or multiple counties. Applicants may offer a MA regional plan in one or more of the 26 MA regions.

Since the publication of the 60-day notice, the information collection request has been revised to provide clarification to applicants, to ensure consistency throughout the entire application, and to reduce confusion among applicants. As a result of those changes, the overall burden associated with the collection has decreased from 22,995 to 21,581 hours. Form Number: CMS-10237 (OCN 0938-0935). Frequency: Yearly. Affected Public: Private Sector (Business or other for-profits, Not-for-profit institutions). Number of Respondents: 566. Total Annual Responses: 566. Total Annual Hours: 21,581. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Barbara Gullick at 410-786-0563. For all other issues call 410-786-1326.)

2. Type of Information Collection Request: Revision of a currently approved collection;

Title: Application for New and Expanding Medicare Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MA-PD), including Cost Plans and Employer Group Waiver Plans; Use: The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit program was established by section 101 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) and is codified in section 1860D of the Social Security Act (the Act). Section 101 of the MMA amended Title XVIII of the Social Security Act by redesignating Part D as Part E and inserting a new Part D, which establishes the voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program (“Part D”). The MMA was amended on July 15, 2008 by the enactment of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), on March 23, 2010 by the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and on March 30, 2010 by the enactment the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (collectively the Affordable Care Act).

Coverage for the prescription drug benefit is provided through contracted prescription drug plans (PDPs) or through Medicare Advantage (MA) plans that offer integrated prescription drug and health care coverage (MA-PD plans). Cost Plans that are regulated under Section 1876 of the Social Security Act, and Employer Group Waiver Plans (EGWP) may also provide a Part D benefit. Organizations wishing to provide services under the Prescription Drug Benefit Program must complete an application, negotiate rates, and receive final approval from CMS. Existing Part D Sponsors may also expand their contracted service area by completing the Service Area Expansion (SAE) application.

Collection of this information is mandated in Part D of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) in Subpart 3. The application

requirements are codified in Subpart K of 42 CFR 423 entitled “*Application Procedures and Contracts with PDP Sponsors.*”

Effective January 1, 2006, the Part D program established an optional prescription drug benefit for individuals who are entitled to Medicare Part A or enrolled in Part B. In general, coverage for the prescription drug benefit is provided through PDPs that offer drug-only coverage, or through MA organizations that offer integrated prescription drug and health care coverage (MA-PD plans). PDPs must offer a basic drug benefit. Medicare Advantage Coordinated Care Plans (MA-CCPs) must offer either a basic benefit or may offer broader coverage for no additional cost. Medicare Advantage Private Fee for Service Plans (MA-PFFS) may choose to offer a Part D benefit. Cost Plans that are regulated under Section 1876 of the Social Security Act, and Employer Group Plans may also provide a Part D benefit. If any of the contracting organizations meet basic requirements, they may also offer supplemental benefits through enhanced alternative coverage for an additional premium.

Applicants may offer either a PDP or MA-PD plan with a service area covering the nation (i.e., offering a plan in every region) or covering a limited number of regions. MA-PD and Cost Plan applicants may offer local plans.

There are 34 PDP regions and 26 MA regions in which PDPs or regional MA-PDs may be offered respectively. The MMA requires that each region have at least two Medicare prescription drug plans from which to choose, and at least one of those must be a PDP. Requirements for contracting with Part D Sponsors are defined in Part 423 of 42 C.F.R.

This clearance request is for the information collected to ensure applicant compliance with CMS requirements and to gather data used to support determination of contract awards.

Form Number: CMS-10137(OCN: 0938-0936); Frequency: Yearly; Affected Public: Private Sector - Business or other for-profits and Not-for-profit institutions; Number of Respondents: 241; Total Annual Responses: 241; Total Annual Hours: 2,132. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Linda Anders at 410-786-0459. For all other issues call 410-786-1326.)

To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received by the OMB desk officer at the address below, no later than 5 p.m. on **[OFR—insert date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register.]**

OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

Attention: CMS Desk Officer

Fax Number: (202) 395-6974

E-mail: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov.

Dated: October 5, 2012

Martique Jones

Director, Regulations Development Group, Division B

Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs

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